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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, to ensure publication. So many letters are being received that almost all are abridged.

### A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

Dear Editor: This is written in the hope that it may reach nurses and others who were on duty, Christmas, 1918, at Base Hospital 94, Pruniers, France. The mother of one of the patients there at that time has often wished to thank those who made a cheerful Christmas for her boy, and for the many other patients. A letter from her soldier son, then at Base 94, told of the decoration of the wards, made with pine greens and mistletoe gathered and put up in the wards by the convalescents; the Christmas Eve chant of "Holy Night," sung by Red Cross nurses and medical corps men, each bearing a candle; the awakening of the patients by the sound of music, faint at first, then louder, the opening of the ward door, the entrance of the singers, the passing of the procession through the ward and out into another ward, then the receding voices, all making an impressive ceremony, long to be remembered. On Christmas morning the soldier patients found a pair of heavy knitted socks for each one, filled with Christmas things—orange, candy, cakes, cigarettes, gum, and currants. There was music, a turkey dinner with generous helpings at noon, a band concert in the afternoon, a good supper, and more music and entertainment in the evening, making a happy Christmas for the patients. The mother of this soldier boy takes this opportunity to thank the persons who planned and executed the Christmas festivities, everyone who helped make it a glad Christmas, including a kind Major having charge of the hospital. While the thankful mother writes this as an expression of gratitude to all who contributed to the Christmas program, she would be pleased to learn the name and address of any one who helped make the cheerful Christmas for the soldier patients at Base 94, Pruniers, France, in 1918.

New York

Mrs. H. G. P.

(Replies may be sent to the *Journal* Office.—Ed.)

### THE NURSE ANESTHETIST

Dear Editor: The article on this subject has brought many inquiries, some of which I would like to answer through the *Journal*. Although the demand for the nurse anesthetist is increasing, we must realize that a great many hospitals meet their own demand by sending graduate nurses of their own school to take the course. It would be foolish for a graduate nurse to take a course in anesthetics unless she were sure of work afterward. The course is a good beginning; to be of real value, the work must be continued for some time. Questions asked in reference to the course at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital are: Does the applicant have to be assured of a position before she can take the course? Yes. Does the hospital furnish board, room, laundry, etc.? The student anesthetist lives outside. She remains in the hospital during clinic hours. Lunch is served her at noon. Can a nurse work to earn her board, room, etc.? That is not the rule. One should write directly to the hospital for particulars.

Pennsylvania

JULIA M. SIEKE.

(Nurses wishing lists of schools where courses in anesthesia are given, should write to the Bureau of Information, American Red Cross, 44 East 23rd Street, New York City, enclosing a self-addressed envelope.—Ed.)